

and then moved from one branch to another. The understorey was dominated by *Mimulopsis* and *Acanthus* sp. The plumage of the birds was dark grey above, white below, with a black collar around the breast and rufous-orange from the sides of the breast to the flanks. RR had seen the species before in western Kenya.

The Black-collared Apalis is a bird of undergrowth; it occurs in central and western Kenya and had been reported from Kakamega Forest and Mt Elgon (Britton 1980, Mann 1985, Lewis & Pomeroy 1989).

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

Savalli (1989) records an observation of Black and White Mannikins *Lonchura bicolor* eating algae in Kakamega Forest, and states that he knows of no other reports of algae-feeding by a granivorous bird. However, Bennun *et al.* (1986) reported probable algae-feeding in the granivorous Oriole Finch *Linurgus olivaceus* at Ol Doinyo Orok (2°29S, 36°48E). Between 22 and 24 March 1986 at least two pairs, one accompanied by an immature male, regularly came down to a particular spot on the bank of the Namanga River. Here they often stayed for up to 15 min, wading and feeding in the shallow water running over the rocks where green algae grew in abundance. These records suggest that finches might often feed on algae, perhaps to supplement the nutrients in their regular diet (cf. Belovsky 1976).

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